

# Buckland Rippers (St. Nicholas)



*Church of St. Nicholas, Buckland Rippers (October 2013).*

Buckland Rippers is a small rural village to the west of Broadwey. The church is in a fairly remote setting at the end of a lane and mostly dates to 1655, as the medieval building was destroyed by fire. The church is very small and just consists of a nave and chancel.

## Sources:

- Hutchins, J. *The history and antiquities of the County of Dorset*, 3rd ed., edited by W. Shipp and J.W. Hodson, Westminster: J.B. Nichols, 1861-1873, vol x.
- Newman, J. and Pevsner, N., *The buildings of England: Dorset*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1972, p. 123.
- Pitfield, F.P., *Dorset parish churches, A-D*. Milborne Port: Dorset Publishing Company, 1981, pp. 134-135.
- Raven, J.J., The church bells of Dorset [part 2]. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club*, Vol. XXV, 1904, p. 47.
- Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) *An inventory of historical monuments in the County of Dorset*, Vol. 2, South-East Dorset. London: HMSO, 1970.

## Bells:

The church has a bell-cote with two apertures, but only one bell. Raven (1904, p. 47) says that it has no inscription.



*Church of St. Nicholas, Buckland Rippers (October 2013).*

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Maintained by [Michael Day](#), Last updated: 20 October 2013.

# Cattistock (St. Peter and St. Paul)



*St. Peter and St. Paul, Cattistock*

This is one of my favourite Dorset Churches. Most of the church was rebuilt in the late nineteenth century, the architects being *Sir George Gilbert Scott* and his son *George Gilbert Scott, Jr.* The son was responsible for the tall Perpendicular-styled tower, apparently modelled on the 15th century tower at Charminster. Pevsner comments (pp. 130-131) that "for the mid to late C19, this is the masterpiece among Dorset churches."

The old church is described by Hutchins (3rd ed., vol. 4, p. 11):

"The Church of Cattistock, dedicated to St. Peter and Paul, its monuments, &c. is thus described in the previous edition of this work: 'it stands on the south side of the parish, and is an ancient fabric, consisting of a chancel and body, covered with lead, and two aisles tiled. On the north side of the church is a low embattled tower, built chiefly with flints; the lower part forms a large commodious porch, and is the principal entrance to the church, but a round arched door. The east wing is square. There are two small transepts. The tower contains three bells.

"Upon the first,  
Ave Mari gratia plena dominus tecu.  
2. Names of churchwardens, and date 1700.  
3. Names and date 1659.

"The north aisle, built by Mr. Mayo, butts against the east side of the tower; and, as appears by a memorandum in the register, was built by John Mayo, rector, 1630; half of it on the east part he appointed to Chalmington farm, then Sir Richard Strode's and his heirs; and the four seats on the west to North Chalmington farm, to Wicham, to the rectory, and to Merrifield.

"The south aisle belongs to Chantmarle farm; on the wooden screen that divides it from the body were the arms of Strode carved on two escutcheons.

"On carved screen of wood, which divides the chancel from the body, was this inscription:

Temus edax rerum, ligno non marmore sculptum  
Dictio non genitis hoc pietatis opus.  
Ric. Bishop de Holway struxit 1634

"These screens have been long since removed. They are not now remembered by the oldest persons in the parish.

## Sources:

- Betjeman, J., *Sir John Betjeman's guide to English parish churches*, revised and updated by Nigel Kerr. London: HarperCollins, 1993, p. 181.
- Dorset Historic Churches Trust, *Dorset Churches*. [Dorchester]: DHCT, 1988, p. 17.
- Hope, M., Dorset. In: Humphrey, S.C., ed., *Blue guide: churches and chapels of southern England*. London: Black; New York: Norton, 1991, pp. 189-190.
- Hutchins, J. *The history and antiquities of the County of Dorset*, 3rd ed., edited by W. Shipp and J.W. Hodson, Westminster: J.B. Nichols, 1861-1870, Vol. 4, pp. 11-12.
- Jenkins, S. *England's thousand best churches*. London: Allen Lane, the Penguin Press, 1999, pp. 149-150.
- Arthur Mee, ed., *Dorset: Thomas Hardy's country*. The King's England. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1939, p. 55.
- Newman, J. and Pevsner, N. *The buildings of England: Dorset*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1972, pp. 130-131.
- Pitfield, F.P., *Dorset parish churches A-D*. Milborne Port: Dorset Publishing Company, 1981, pp. 152-155.
- Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), *An inventory of historical monuments in the County of Dorset*, Vol. 1, West Dorset. London: HMSO, 1952, p. 71.
- Sackett, T. and Sackett, E., *Francis Frith's Dorset Churches*. Salisbury: Frith Book Co., 2000, pp. 46-47.
- Stamp, G., *An Architecture of Promise: George Gilbert Scott Jr and the Late Gothic Revival*. Donington: Shaun Tyas, 2002.

## Church guide:

The last couple of times that I have visited this Church there has not been a Church guide available. That said, there was an excellent display in the Church itself giving an account of the history of this wonderful building.

## Bells:

8, 13-3-13 in F#

Before 1940, Cattistock had a carillon of 35 bells. Raven (1904, p. 35) said that 33 of the bells were cast in Louvain (Leuven) by Severin van Aerschodt between 1872 and 1882, two by his son Felix in 1899. The ringing peal was installed in 1882, the carillon being installed much later and dedicated on the 1st June 1899. Unfortunately, the carillon and tower were destroyed by fire in September 1940 and, although the damaged parts of the tower were restored, the carillon itself was never replaced. Instead, a completely new ring of eight bells (by the Whitechapel foundry) was installed in 1950.





*St. Peter and St. Paul, Cattistock: Memorial to the Rev. Keith Barnes and his sister.*

An interesting article on "English carillons" in *The Musical Times* (Starmer, 1915) gives some more background on the origins and development of the carillon:

"In 1863 the Rev. H. Keith Barnes became rector of Cattistock, and being a great lover of bell music he determined that he would have a suitable tower built to his church which should contain a carillon with clavier. The old tower was too small, and could not in any way be made to suit the requirements, so Mr. Gilbert Scott, Junr., was employed to design a campanile. The tower was completed in 1876, and is 100 feet high, the bells being about 75 feet up. The design is excellent, but if it could have been made another 50 feet higher it would have been a great advantage to the carillon. For carillon use bells ought never to be less than 100 feet from the ground. The cost of the tower was £3,000, defrayed by Mr. Barnes. There are 35 bells, of which 33 were cast in 1882 and 2 in 1899 - the former by Severin van Aerschodt and the latter by Felix van Aerschodt. The largest bell weighs 19 cwts., and the total weight of the carillon is 4 tons 17½ cwts.

"Mr Barnes completed his scheme by leaving a sum of money for the special purpose of providing for the upkeep of the carillon.

"Taking the bells as a whole they are good representative work of the period when they were cast, but do not fulfil the modern requirements as to tune. Bells at the present time can be tuned to the accuracy of a single vibration, and in England now better than in any other country. The present rector, the Rev. R. P. Stickland, has nobly carried on the project initiated by Mr. Barnes, and once a year on the last Thursday of July M. Josef Denyn gives a recital and also arranges the tunes for, and directs the work of setting them on, the chime-barrel.

"The chime-barrel contains no less than 7,200 holes, into which the studs are fixed according to the requirements of the music.

"There are 72 chime-hammers, 60 of which are in active use. The multiplication of hammers is to facilitate quick repetitions.

"Eight bells are used as a ringing peal."

An article published in the same journal later that year (Colles, 1915) gives some additional details on the arrangements for the ringing peal:

"The Rector of Cattistock told me that when M. Denyn was first consulted about the arrangements for the carillon he very naturally suggested that it would be necessary to do away with the peal. The combination of carillon with bells that are swung for pealing was outside his experience, and it no doubt seemed a simple thing to forfeit so primitive a method of obtaining bell-music for the sake of the more cultivated carillon. But the Rector, as a true pastor of his flock, knew better. He saw at once that in that case his own ambition to possess a carillon must go by the board. England is a democratic country, in its church management as in other things, and the village democracy would not sacrifice its peal for all the carillons in Belgium. It takes eight stalwart men to peal the bells, and they were not to be done out of their privilege. Everyone knows the hold which the art of ringing changes has upon the minds and muscles of Englishmen."

Obviously some way was found of reconciling the two points-of-view, although Dalton (2000, p. 153) reports that the bells hung for full-circle ringing (which were in a separate lower-level frame) were extremely difficult to ring, with clapping problems on the lighter bells. This is certainly what the *Bell News* reported in its account of the dedication of the bells on the 10th October 1882 (Anon, 1882):

It had been decided almost from the first, that eight of the heavier bells of the carillon should be hung for ringing, and when they arrived at Cattistock last February, the work was taken in hand by Messrs. Hooper and Sons, who as far as the actual hanging of the bells are concerned, have done their work most satisfactorily. Unfortunately, however, as all ringers would naturally expect, Belgian founders not being in the habit of casting bells for ringing, the clappers sent from Louvain were found to be useless, and an enormous amount of time and trouble has been expended in new clappers; for owing to the practice in Belgium of casting small and large bells all to one scale, it has been found exceedingly difficult to arrange the clappers so as to obtain the pull from the light bells without making the clappers too heavy for the bells. This difficulty has not yet been overcome, but it is hoped that it soon will be, when it can be safely predicted that the church of SS. Peter and Paul, Cattistock, will possess as fine a ring of eight as any church in England.

It was the specific wish of Mr Barnes - who had by this stage been compelled by ill-health to resign the rectory - that the bells should be opened by Oxford ringers. A band duly arrived the day before, but it was not possible them to go for a full peal after the dedication, due to the state of the clappers. Instead, they rang shorter touches of Grandsire, Stedman and Treble Bob.

Jef Denyn's annual carillon recitals at Cattistock were reviewed in *The Musical Times* in 1911, and again between 1915 and 1918. At the time, there was much concern about the fate of Belgian carillons during the German occupation, especially that of Malines (Mechelen), of which city M. Denyn was carillonneur. The final report in 1918 recorded that the Mechelen carillon had not been destroyed, "and for this we have to thank that grand old man, Cardinal Mercier, who has ever kept his watchful eye on the bells from the very beginning of the Hun occupation of the city."

Both Raven and Dalton provide full details of all of the bells, although Raven's first attempt resulted in the accidental inversion of all of the inscriptions (Raven, 1906, p. 106). The following has been checked with Dalton's account, but extracts the eight bells used for full-circle ringing and provides the traditional (heaviest first) ordering of the remaining carillon bells. Dalton provides weights for all the bells, the lightest (the 35th bell) being 23 lbs.

### **Ringling Peal: 8, 19-3-3 in E**

(The numbers in brackets refer to the number of the bell within the carillon)

- |        |  |    |
|--------|--|----|
| 1 (11) | Ring out the false,   Ring in the true.   GEORGE DIGBY | E  |
|        | WINGFIELD DIGBY, Lord of the Manor, gave me.           |    |
| 2 (10) | Harmonious Bells below,   Bring musick from above.     | D# |

MARY CONSTANCE BARNES gave me.

- |       |   |    |
|-------|---|----|
| 3 (8) | Let those who ring us here,   Do so in Godly fear.  | C# |
| 4 (6) | All Thy works shall praise Thee,   O God.   | B  |
| 5 (5) | O Christ, the King of Glory,   Come in Peace.   | A  |
| 6 (4) | In manifold melodious chime, we waft a fair   good night,<br>from God's high love.   Severin van Aerschodt, of Louvain,<br>cast this Carillon of 33   Bells, A.D., 1872.  | G# |
| 7 (2) | There is no speech, nor language, but their   voices are heard<br>among them.   | F# |
| 8 (1) | Mark well the passing hour,   the tolling Bell   life's end doth<br>tell.   To the Glory of God.   Severin van Aerschodt cast me<br>the Tenor of a peal of eight,   at Louvain, and JANET<br>KEITH BARNES gave me to the Church   of S. S. Peter and<br>Paul, Cattistock, 1872. | E  |

### **The other Bells of the Carillon (heaviest first)**

- |    |  |    |
|----|--|----|
| 3  | Let those the Chimes who hear   Oft leave their earthly care,<br>  for this sweet house of Prayer.   ALBERT WILLIAM<br>STILL BARNES gave me.   | G  |
| 7  | Our voices tell when joy and grief betide, mourn   with the<br>mourner, welcome home the bride.   JOHN ALMERUS<br>DIGBY and DIANA his Wife, and WILLIAM, and<br>ELEANOR SCOTT gave me. | C  |
| 9  | Think when the Bells do chime   'Tis Angels' musick,  <br>Therefore come not late.   | D  |
| 12 | The step of time   Shall move to my melodious chime.  <br>GEORGE TOPPIN, Priest, and BLANCHE his WIFE gave<br>me.  | F  |
| 13 | I mark labour and rest.   ELIZA MARGARET and<br>CHARLES JOHN GUNDRY STILL gave me.   | F# |
| 14 | Long may our soothing Cadence,   Ear, heart, and conscience<br>win.   AGNES FRANCIS MARTEN gave me.  | G  |
| 15 | For God, our Church, and Queen.   F. J. ROOKE,<br>Prebendary of Sarum, and ELLEN his WIFE gave me.   | G# |
| 16 | God bring him to bliss,   That have paid for this.   KEITH<br>JOPP gave me.  | A  |
| 17 | Pange Lingua.   W. H. P. WARD, whilom Rector of<br>Compton Valence, gave me.   | A# |
| 18 | Prosperity to Cattistock.   JAMES CHARLES STILL gave<br>me.  | B  |
| 19 | God defend the right.   FRANK POPE gave me.  | C  |
| 20 | Peace and Good Brotherhood.   ALEXANDER<br>WIGHTMAN gave me.   | C# |
| 21 | God be our speed.   MONTAGU and ALICE HANKEY<br>gave me.   | D  |
| 22 | Praise the Lord.   WILLIAM HENNING gave me.  | D# |
| 23 | I never Sleep.   MARIA DUFF gave me.   | E  |

24	Christians Awake.   W. C. WRIGHTMAN gave me.	F
25	Gloria in Excelsis.   AGNES GARFORTH gave me.	F#
26	My music shall find Thee.   SELINA STILL gave me.	G
27	C. T.	G#
28	Me fudit Lovanü Severinus.   VANAERSCHODT, 1880.	A
29	J. M.	A#
30	J. M.	B
31	T. C. L.	C
32	F. T. S.	C#
33	M. G.	D
34	In Memory of George F. Greville, 1842-1897.   CECIL GREVILLE gave me, 1899.	D#
35	In Memory of Charles Stickland, 1885-1897.   R. P. STICKLAND, Rector, 1899.	E

Raven (1904, p. 37) and Dalton (2000) also provide additional details on the three bells in the old church:

1. WB . WT . WC . TP . AN . NO . DO . MI . 1659 .
2. Fran : Goore : Ed : Thomas : anno domini : 1700 : T.P.
3. + Ave maria gracia plena dous tecu.

The first two were from Thomas Purdue's Closworth foundry; the second probably by his successor Thomas Knight. The tenor was a medieval bell from the Salisbury foundry.

## References

- Anon. (1882). Church of SS. Peter and Paul, Cattistock, Dorset: Dedication and opening of the new bells. *Bell News and Ringers' Record*, Vol. 1, no. 29 (21 October), p. 226.
- Colles, H. C. (1915). Bells and 'burdens.' *The Musical Times*, Vol. 56, no. 871 (1 September), pp. 530-531.
- Dalton, C. (2000). *Bells and belfries of Dorset*, Vol 1, pp. 149-155. Ullingswick: Upper Court Press. Available from: Christopher Dalton, Upper Court, Ullingswick, Hereford HR1 3JQ.
- Raven, J. J. (1904). The Church Bells of Dorset. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club*, Vol. 25, pp. 35-37.
- Raven, J. J. (1906). The church bells of Dorset. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club*, Vol. 27, pp. 93-137.
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- Verheyden, P. (1926). Cattistock. In: Beiaardschool te Mechelen, *Jaarverslag en mededelingen 1926-1927* (Mechelen: druk. H. Dierickx-Beke), pp. 20-24.





*St. Peter and St. Paul, Cattistock, from the north.*

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## The Morris Window

In the south aisle is a two-light window of 1882, by *Morris*. Newman and Pevsner describe it as "exquisitely beautiful" - six angels in red and white robes against a starry deep blue background.



*St. Peter and St. Paul, Cattistock: Window by Morris in south aisle (1882)*



 Cattistock Church

*St. Peter and St. Paul, Cattistock: Window by Morris (detail)*

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Maintained by [Michael Day](#), Last updated: 16 August 2010.

# Frampton (St. Mary)



*St. Mary, Frampton*

## Sources:

- Dorset Historic Churches Trust, *Dorset Churches*. [Dorchester]: DHCT, 1988, p. 25.
- Hutchins, J. *The history and antiquities of the County of Dorset*, 3rd ed., edited by W. Shipp and J.W. Hodson, Westminster: J.B. Nichols, 1861-1870, Vol. x.
- Mee, A., ed., *Dorset: Thomas Hardy's country*. The King's England. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1939, pp. 106-109.
- Newman, J. and Pevsner, N. *The buildings of England: Dorset*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1972, pp. 212-213.
- Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), *An inventory of historical monuments in the County of Dorset*, Vol. 1, West Dorset. London: HMSO, 1952, pp. 114-116.
- Sackett, T. and Sackett, E., *Francis Frith's Dorset Churches*. Salisbury: Frith Book Co., 2000, pp. 50-51.

## Bells:

6, 16-0-14 in F.





*St. Mary, Frampton*

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# Moreton (St. Nicholas)



*Moreton Church, Dorset, from the north (March 2014)*

A small "Gothick" estate church dating from 1776; restored after bomb damage in the Second World War with engraved windows by Lawrence Whistler. T. E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) is buried in the cemetery on the other side of the road.

## Sources:

- Betjeman, J., *Sir John Betjeman's guide to English parish churches*, revised and updated by Nigel Kerr. London: HarperCollins, 1993, pp. 183-184.
- Dorset Historic Churches Trust, *Dorset Churches*. [Dorchester]: DHCT, 1988, p. 36.
- Hutchins, J. *The history and antiquities of the County of Dorset*, 3rd ed., edited by W. Shipp and J.W. Hodson, Westminster: J.B. Nichols, 1861-1873, Vol. 1, 1861, pp. 401-405.
- Jenkins, S. *England's thousand best churches*. London: Allen Lane, the Penguin Press, 1999, p. 158.
- Mee, A., ed., *Dorset: Thomas Hardy's country*. The King's England. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1939, pp. 165-168.
- Newman, J. and Pevsner, N., *The buildings of England: Dorset*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1972, pp. 300-301.
- Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), *An inventory of historical monuments in the County of Dorset*, Vol. 2, South-East Dorset. London: HMSO, 1970, pt. 1, pp. 174-175.
- Sackett, T. and Sackett, E., *Francis Frith's Dorset Churches*. Salisbury: Frith Book Co., 2000, p. 77.



*Moreton Church, Dorset, from the south-east (March 2014)*

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Maintained by [Michael Day](#), Last updated: 30 March 2014.

# Tarrant Hinton (St. Mary)



*St. Mary's Church, Tarrant Hinton, Dorset*

## Sources:

- Dorset Historic Churches Trust, *Dorset Churches*. [Dorchester]: DHCT, 1988, p. 49.
- John Hutchins, *The history and antiquities of the County of Dorset*, 3rd ed., edited by W. Shipp and J.W. Hodson, Westminster: J.B. Nichols, 1861-1873, Vol. 1, 1861, pp. 316-317.
- Arthur Mee, ed., *Dorset: Thomas Hardy's country*. The King's England. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1939, pp. 258-259.
- John Newman and Nikolaus Pevsner, *The buildings of England: Dorset*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1972, p. 417-418.
- Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), *An inventory of historical monuments in the County of Dorset*, Vol. 4, North Dorset. London: HMSO, 1972, pp. 96-98.

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Maintained by [Michael Day](#), Last updated: 24 March 2014.



# Turner's Puddle (Holy Trinity)



*Holy Trinity, Turner's Puddle (Now redundant)*

Turner's Puddle is a very small settlement, often called Toner's Puddle (Piddle) in old books. Arthur Mee explains why: "it is the place of Henry Toner, knight of the shire and doughty warrior for our first King Edward." The church of the Holy Trinity can be found close to the River Piddle, and is built of both flint and limestone rubble. Much of the building dates from c. 1500 but it was restored in the eighteenth century. The top of the tower was rebuilt after a storm in 1758. The church is best approached on foot, horse or bicycle from the hamlet of Throop, crossing a series of fords or footbridges. Unfortunately, the church is now redundant.

## Sources

- Hutchins, J., *The history and antiquities of the County of Dorset*, 3rd ed., edited by W. Shipp and J.W. Hodson, Westminster: J.B. Nichols, 1861-1873, Vol. 1, 1861, p. 212.
- Mee, A., *Dorset: Thomas Hardy's country*. The King's England. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1939, p. 268.
- Newman, J. and Pevsner, N., *Dorset*. The buildings of England. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1972, p. 430.
- Raven, J.J., The church bells of Dorset. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club*, Vol. 24, 1903, pp. 103-148.
- Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), *An inventory of historical monuments in the County of Dorset*, Vol. 2, South East Dorset. London: HMSO, 1970, pt. 2, p. 298.
- Walters, H.B., Dorset church bells. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society*, Vol. 60, 1938, pp. 97-120.

## Bells

There are two bells - at least there were when Canon Raven made his survey. Raven (1903, p. 137) gives the following details:

Two Bells. Tenor - Diam., 16in; height, 18in.

1. \* GABRIEL ANGELUS \* MICHAEL \* MARIA
2. Churchwardens : Barnabbas : Joyner.  
Clemant : Tosiear cast me in 1691.

The treble is by Thomas Hey and dates from the mid-fourteenth century - his other surviving bells are at [Wraxall](#), [Stock Gaylard](#), West Chinnock (Somerset) and [Coombe Keynes](#) (now in the Dorset County Museum). H.B. Walters (1938) notes that Hey used "a very pretty cross in a quatrefoil, of Early English type", and that the bell at Wraxall is inscribed "Thomas Hey makede".



*Founders mark on treble bell (from Raven, 1903, p. 137).*

The tenor is by Clement Tosier of the Salisbury foundry (1691) (Walters, 1938, p.109).

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Maintained by [Michael Day](#), Last updated: 3 October 2000.



# Gussage All Saints (All Saints)



*All Saints' Church, Gussage All Saints, Dorset (2005)*

## Sources:

- John Hutchins, *The history and antiquities of the County of Dorset*, 3rd ed., edited by William Shipp and James Whitworth Hodson, Westminster: J.B. Nichols and Sons, 1861-1873.
- Arthur Mee, ed., *Dorset: Thomas Hardy's country*. The King's England. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1939, pp. 111-112.
- John Newman and Nikolaus Pevsner, *The buildings of England: Dorset*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1972, p. 218.
- Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), *An inventory of historical monuments in the County of Dorset*, Vol. 5, East Dorset. London: HMSO, 1975, pp. 18-19.

## Bells:

5, 8 cwt. in Ab.



*All Saints' Church, Gussage All Saints, Dorset*

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Maintained by [Michael Day](#), Last updated: 9 August 2005.

# Lyme Regis (St. Michael)



*Lyme Regis (St. Michael)*

## Sources:

- Betjeman, J., *Sir John Betjeman's guide to English parish churches*, revised and updated by Nigel Kerr. London: HarperCollins, 1993, p. 183.
- Dorset Historic Churches Trust, *Dorset Churches*. [Dorchester]: DHCT, 1988, p. 32.
- Hope, M., Dorset. In: Humphrey, S.C., ed., *Blue guide: churches and chapels of southern England*. London: Black; New York: Norton, 1991, pp. 191-193.
- Hutchins, J. *The history and antiquities of the County of Dorset*, 3rd ed., edited by W. Shipp and J.W. Hodson, Westminster: J.B. Nichols, 1861-1873, Vol. x.
- Jenkins, S. *England's thousand best churches*. London: Allen Lane, the Penguin Press, 1999, p. 156-157.
- Mee, A., ed., *Dorset: Thomas Hardy's country*. The King's England. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1939, pp. 139-144.
- Newman, J. and Pevsner, N., *The buildings of England: Dorset*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1972, p. 259.
- Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), *An inventory of historical monuments in the County of Dorset*, Vol. 1, West Dorset. London: HMSO, 1952, pp. 141-144.
- Sackett, T. and Sackett, E., *Francis Frith's Dorset Churches*. Salisbury: Frith Book Co., 2000, pp. 16-18.

## Bells:

10, 10-3-18 in G.





*Lyme Regis (St. Michael)*

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Maintained by [Michael Day](#), Last updated: 6 May 2014.

# Maiden Newton (St. Mary)



*St. Mary, Maiden Newton*

## Sources:

- Betjeman, J., *Sir John Betjeman's guide to English parish churches*, revised and updated by Nigel Kerr. London: HarperCollins, 1993, p. 183.
- Dorset Historic Churches Trust, *Dorset Churches*. [Dorchester]: DHCT, 1988, p. 33.
- Hutchins, J. *The history and antiquities of the County of Dorset*, 3rd ed., edited by W. Shipp and J.W. Hodson, Westminster: J.B. Nichols, 1861-1873, Vol. x.
- Mee, A., ed., *Dorset: Thomas Hardy's country*. The King's England. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1939, pp. 145-147.
- Newman, J. and Pevsner, N. *The buildings of England: Dorset*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1972, pp. 264-265.
- Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), *An inventory of historical monuments in the County of Dorset*, Vol. 1, West Dorset. London: HMSO, 1952, pp. 150-152.
- Sackett, T. and Sackett, E., *Francis Frith's Dorset Churches*. Salisbury: Frith Book Co., 2000, p. 48.

## Bells:

6, 10½ cwt. in G.

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Maintained by [Michael Day](#), Last updated: 9 November 2014.



# Melcombe Horsey (St. Andrew)



*St. Andrew's Church, Melcombe Horsey, April 2014.*

The church of St. Andrew, Melcombe Horsey can be found next to Bingham's Melcombe house. It is mostly fourteenth century and is built of stone and flint. The remains of a deserted medieval village lie to the south.

## Sources:

- Hutchins, J. *The history and antiquities of the County of Dorset*, 3rd ed., edited by W. Shipp and J.W. Hodson, Westminster: J.B. Nichols, 1861-1873.
- Mee, A., ed., *Dorset: Thomas Hardy's country*. The King's England. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1939, pp. 153-155.
- Newman, J. and Pevsner, N., *The buildings of England: Dorset*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1972, p. 278.
- Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), *An inventory of historical monuments in the County of Dorset*, Vol. 3, Central Dorset. London: HMSO, 1970, pt. 2, pp. 161-163. <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=127862>

## Bells:

The church has two bells. They get a mention in the second stanza of John Betjeman's poem "Dorset":

Lord's Day bells from Bingham's Melcombe, Iwerne Minster, Shroton, Plush  
Down the grass between the beeches, mellow in the evening hush.

*John Betjeman's Collected poems*, 8th ed. London: John Murray, 1980, pp. 40-41.



*St. Andrew's Church, Melcombe Horsey, April 2014.*

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# Stalbridge (St. Mary)



*St. Mary's Church, Stalbridge, Dorset (June 2012)*

## Sources:

- John Hutchins, *The history and antiquities of the County of Dorset*, 3rd ed., edited by William Shipp and James Whitworth Hodson, Westminster: J.B. Nichols and Sons, 1861-1873.
- Arthur Mee, ed., *Dorset: Thomas Hardy's country*. The King's England. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1939, pp. 229-232.
- John Newman and Nikolaus Pevsner, *The buildings of England: Dorset*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1972, pp. 395-396.
- Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), *An inventory of historical monuments in the County of Dorset*, Vol. 3, Central Dorset. London: HMSO, 1970, pt. 2, pp. 247-249.





*Stalbridge, Dorset (June 2012)*

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# Upwey (St. Laurence)



*St Laurence's Church, Upwey*

## Sources:

- Hutchins, J. *The history and antiquities of the County of Dorset*, 3rd ed., edited by W. Shipp and J.W. Hodson, Westminster: J.B. Nichols, 1861-1873.
- Mee, A., ed., *Dorset: Thomas Hardy's country*. The King's England. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1939, pp. 270-271.
- Newman, J. and Pevsner, N., *The buildings of England: Dorset*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1972, pp. 433-434.
- Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), *An inventory of historical monuments in the County of Dorset*, Vol. 2, South-East Dorset. London: HMSO, 1970, pt. 2, pp. 365-366.
- Sackett, T. and Sackett, E., *Francis Frith's Dorset Churches*. Salisbury: Frith Book Co., 2000, pp. 70-71.

## Bells:

6, 9½ in A.





*St Laurence's Church, Upwey*

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# Bere Regis (St. John the Baptist)



*Limestone and flint tower of St. John the Baptist, Bere Regis, Dorset (June 2009).*

Bere Regis Church is one of Dorset's most interesting. It has a fine early sixteenth century tower constructed of local limestone (Purbeck) and flint. The treasure of this church, however, are the carved and painted oak roof beams, which date from the fifteenth century. The [protruding beams](#) are carved into twelve figures dressed in medieval costume, probably either monastic figures or meant to represent the twelve Apostles. Whoever they are meant to be, the roof is definitely worth a look.

## Sources:

- Betjeman, J., *Sir John Betjeman's guide to English parish churches*, revised and updated by Nigel Kerr. London: HarperCollins, 1993, p. 180.
- Hope, M., Dorset. In: Humphrey, S.C., ed., *Blue guide: churches and chapels of southern England*. London: Black; New York: Norton, 1991, pp. 186-188.
- Dorset Historic Churches Trust, *Dorset Churches*. [Dorchester]: DHCT, 1988, p. 10.
- Hutchins, J. *The history and antiquities of the County of Dorset*, 3rd ed., edited by W. Shipp and J. W. Hodson, Westminster: J.B. Nichols and Sons, 1861-1873, Vol. 1, 1861, pp. 150-154.
- Jenkins, S. *England's thousand best churches*. London: Allen Lane, the Penguin Press, 1999, p. 147.
- Mee, A., ed., *Dorset: Thomas Hardy's country*. The King's England. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1939, pp. 25-28.
- Newman, J. and Pevsner, N., *The buildings of England: Dorset*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1972, pp. 89-91.

- Pitfield, F.P., *Dorset parish churches, A-D*. Milborne Port: Dorset Publishing Company, 1981, pp. 58-64.
- Pitfield, F.P., *The book of Bere Regis*. Wincanton: Dorset Publishing Company, 1996 (1978).
- Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), *An inventory of historical monuments in the County of Dorset*, Vol. 2, South-East Dorset. London: HMSO, 1970, Pt. 1, pp. 13-18.
- Sackett, T. and Sackett, E., *Francis Frith's Dorset Churches*. Salisbury: Frith Book Co., 2000, pp. 67-68.

## Church guide (as of 1997):

*Bere Regis Church, Dorset*, written and illustrated by F.P. Pitfield, 1983-94. Wincanton: Dorset Publishing Company, [ca. 1994]. ISBN 0-948699-00-0.

An 8 page illustrated history by local author and illustrator. Also available is a 12 page colour booklet entitled "Bere Regis Church, Dorset" (text by John England and Fred Pitfield) which commemorates the 500th anniversary of the oak roof, and which was published in 1986.

## Bells:

6, 18-2-17 in Eb

See also: John England, *Tower 500: History of the Tower of the Church of St. John the Baptist, Bere Regis* (2000). Available from: John England, 10 South Mead, Bere Regis, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 7HY. Cost: £5.00 + postage.



*St. John the Baptist, Bere Regis, Dorset (June 2009). View from the North East.  
War Memorial (1919) in foreground.*



## Images of the interior

Bere Regis church contains some interesting tombs and carvings. The carved capitals by the main entrance are particularly fine. There is also a stunning fifteenth century roof, probably undertaken by Cardinal Morton, who had been born in the parish (Milborne Stileham). Some images of the roof can be found [here](#)



*12th century carving of a man who has just accidentally dropped his car keys down a drain, Bere Regis, Dorset*



*12th century carving of dog baiting a tethered bear (?), Bere Regis, Dorset*



# The timber roof of St. John the Baptist, Bere Regis



*General view of timber roof, St John the Baptist, Bere Regis*

In Bere Regis church can be found a carved and painted oak roof, dating from the fifteenth century. This was allegedly paid for by Cardinal Morton, who was born in the parish and later became Lord Chancellor and Archbishop of Canterbury. The twelve protruding beams are carved into figures dressed in medieval costume, probably either monastic figures or (more likely, given their iconographic content) meant to represent the twelve Apostles. It is thought that the prominent face in one of the timber bosses is a representation of Morton himself.



*Detail of a face, supposed to be that of Cardinal Morton*

Speculation remains as to which apostle is which, although St Peter as a bishop with his iconographical keys is quite distinctive. A scheme devised by Fred Pitfield (and others) assumes that the figures are arranged in

alphabetical order, moving clockwise around the church. Starting from the north-east corner of the nave, this would make the general order: St Andrew, St Bartholomew, St James the Greater, St James the Less, St John, Judas Iscariot (north side); St Jude, St Matthew, St Philip, St (Simon) Peter, St Simon Zealotes, St Thomas (south side). Whoever they are meant to represent, the figures are extremely interesting, life-sized versions of people wearing fifteenth-century costume. The distances involved means that the photographs included here cannot do real justice to the reality.

**Four Apostles: South side, from West to East (left to right on the left-hand side of the church)**



*Left: St. Matthew (?); Right: St Philip (?)*



*Left: St Peter (Simon Peter); Right: Simon the Zealot (?)*

## Four Apostles: North side, from West to East (left to right on right-hand side of the church)



*Left: St Bartholomew (?); Right: St James the Greater (?)*



*Left: St James the Less (?); Right: St John (?)*

### Sources:

- Betjeman, J., *Sir John Betjeman's guide to English parish churches*, revised and updated by Nigel Kerr. London: HarperCollins, 1993, p. 180.
- England, J. and Pitfield, F.P., *Bere Regis Church, Dorset* [church guidebook]. Wincanton: Dorset Publishing Company, [ca. 1994]. ISBN 0-948699-00-0. [Commemorating the 500th anniversary of the oak roof, first published in 1986]

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- Hope, M., Dorset. In: Humphrey, S.C., ed., *Blue guide: churches and chapels of southern England*. London: Black; New York: Norton, 1991, pp. 186-188.
- Dorset Historic Churches Trust, Dorset Churches. [Dorchester]: DHCT, 1988, p. 10.
- Hutchins, J. *The history and antiquities of the County of Dorset*, 3rd ed., edited by W. Shipp and J. W. Hodson, Westminster: J.B. Nichols and Sons, 1861-1873, Vol. 1, 1861, pp. 150-154.
- Jenkins, S. *England's thousand best churches*. London: Allen Lane, the Penguin Press, 1999, p. 147.
- Mee, A., ed., *Dorset: Thomas Hardy's country*. The King's England. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1939, pp. 25-28.
- Newman, J. and Pevsner, N., *The buildings of England: Dorset*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1972, pp. 89-91.
- Pitfield, F.P., *Dorset parish churches, A-D*. Milborne Port: Dorset Publishing Company, 1981, pp. 58-64.
- Pitfield, F.P., *The book of Bere Regis*. Wincanton: Dorset Publishing Company, 1996 (1978).
- Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), *An inventory of historical monuments in the County of Dorset*, Vol. 2, South-East Dorset. London: HMSO, 1970, Pt. 1, pp. 13-18.
- Sackett, T. and Sackett, E., *Francis Frith's Dorset Churches*. Salisbury: Frith Book Co., 2000, pp. 67-68.

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